



HOW REVOLTS CAN END WAR

From the First World War to Vietnam, workers have defied generals >>Pages 14&15

DOCS HUNT DOWN TORIES

Why strike ballot is crucial for whole NHS >>Page 17



SPOOKS CAST A WIDE WEB

How Tory 'security bill' threatens everyone's freedom >>Page 6



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2479 | 14 November 2015 | socialistworker.co.uk

TOFFS PUSH CUTS AND ATTACK UNION RIGHTS

DEFEY TORY BILL



TORY MPS were set to push the Trade Union Bill through its third reading on Tuesday of this week. They are determined to axe more public services and undermine any trade union opposition.

They know that determined resistance from workers can beat them.

Trade unions could do worse than copy the workers at London's School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas).

They walked out at the end of October to defend Unison union branch secretary Sandy Nicoll.

Bosses wanted to get rid of Sandy before driving through huge cuts. They suspended him on trumped up charges. But his colleagues defied the anti-union

>>continued on Page 3

STEEL

Scunthorpe march against job cuts

SOME 2,000 people marched in Scunthorpe on Tuesday of this week against plans to slash jobs.

Bosses at Tata steel announced plans to slash almost 1,200 jobs last month.

Workers from the Scunthorpe plant were joined by marchers from Yorkshire, Wales, Scotland and Teesside.

>>Page 3

FURTHER EDUCATION



Lecturers strike to beat college pay freeze

COLLEGE lecturers across England struck on Tuesday of this week.

The UCU union members are fighting a pay freeze following years of real terms pay cuts. Activists argued that the strike must be just the start—and that the fight should be broadened to other unions.

>>Page 7

SYRIA

Tories organise to push for more war

WARMONGERS are using the downing of a Russian jet as justification for a new war in Syria.

For sections of the British ruling class the war drive is part of the project of maintaining Britain as a world player.

>>Page 4

UNITE THE RESISTANCE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE THIS SATURDAY

BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, WC2H 8EP

●Speakers include John McDonnell MP, Natalie Bennett, Matt Wrack & Candy Udwin
Go to www.uniteresist.org for more information

PICTURES: BARNET UNISON



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'Moaning about having poor wifi access and how boring Germany is'

Sun columnist Rod Liddle in a bizarre attack on refugees

'Depressingly typical of the BMA'

The Daily Mail on the BMA's ballot for strikes—doctors last struck 40 years ago

'Typical trade union style'

The Sun follows suit

'Disreputable call to inflict suffering'

The Mail on the BMA ballot

'Disgraceful dereliction of duty'

The Sun follows suit

'Completely crazy'

Boris Johnson, the mayor of London uses all his polemical skill to oppose the idea of sanctions on Israel

'We support the Government in their attempt to update the law in this important and sensitive area'

Shadow home secretary Andy Burnham forgets what opposition means—again



Meddling man with medals worries Corbyn won't kill

GENERAL SIR Nicholas Houghton—chief of the defence staff—decided to use Remembrance Sunday to argue for the importance of killing lots of people.

He made a point of saying that Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was a "worry".

He added that a plan to never use nuclear weapons "undermines the credibility" of the deterrent.

Houghton received the backing of Maria Eagle, the shadow defence secretary.

She told The Andrew Marr Show that the chief of the defence staff was within his rights to express his doubts about her party leader becoming prime minister.

Which should go in the box marked unhelpful.

The prime minister's office defended the comments.

Houghton is Cameron's

top military adviser.

Which suggests he and they are for using nuclear weapons in order to deter their use.

The Labour leader complained of soldiers meddling in democracy. Which is fair enough as far as it goes.

The esteemed general has a long and distinguished career and has lost a number of wars.

He also hired his own private lawyers to help rebut criticism of him in Sir John Chilcot's Iraq inquiry report—if it ever reports.

General Sir Nicholas has been told that he is among several senior military commanders facing criticism in the report.

Questions about his spotless record are likely to relate to the aftermath of the 2003 invasion when he held senior

roles in Iraq.

He gave evidence to the inquiry in 2010 when he was pressed on corruption and violence in the British-trained Iraqi police.

Corruption and violence being the type of thing that made the empire what it was.

He was chief of joint operations in 2008

when the Iraqi military requested US rather than British assistance to retake Iraq's second city of Basra, three months after British troops had withdrawn from the city. Perhaps they thought Houghton would nuke them.

HOUGHTON AND his medals

TORY WORK and Pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith is threatening to resign if George Osborne announces any more cuts to his welfare changes.

But this is at least the fourth time IDS has threatened to quit—once in 2011 and at least twice in 2010.

Maybe this time he'll be a man of his word.

Wouldn't hold your breath.

Threatening

NEWSPAPERS LAST week warned of winter blackouts. The Daily Express claimed "energy experts" said supply and demand margins are "alarmingly" tight. Tory chancellor George Osborne last month signed a deal for a new nuclear power plant at Hinkley Point. Troublemaker stresses there is no connection between the two.

The lights are out for Jim Davidson

TROUBLEMAKER would like to congratulate the lighting engineer who apparently switched off the lights during a show by "comedian" Jim Davidson last month.

Davidson whined, "I stood in the dark for most of the performance while the lighting girl had a strobe."

Apparently he has been "banned" from the Assembly Hall theatre in Tunbridge Wells from now on.

Venue director Brian McAteer said this was "irrespective of Jim Davidson's rudeness" and was because Davidson's backward brand of "comedy" just

isn't popular enough.

A TORY health minister has deliberately blocked a new law to provide cheap and effective drugs for the NHS by championing medicines whose patents have expired.

Alistair Burt spoke for nearly half an hour to "filibuster" the proposed Off-Patent Drugs Bill. He accused those who wanted cheaper drugs of "shroud waving".



Not popular

Making up police Bradford bravery

WEST Yorkshire Police has apologised for a press release that contained an error about officers going into a burning house in Bradford and rescuing a man.

Police released a statement saying two officers forced their way into the semi-detached property and brought a man to safety.

Chief Inspector Sarah Baker at Bradford district police praised the officers "for the bravery they showed in entering the burning house and bringing the male occupant to safety".

Residents

from neighbouring properties challenged that version of events.

The force has admitted it made an error—but insisted it was well intentioned.

Chief Inspector Baker said, "We have now established the officers forced entry with the assistance of a resident. Whilst it was assumed both officers went inside the premises, this was not the case."

The resident said, "All I did was kick the front door in. No one went in. He came running out of the back door."



Inspector Baker

A bridging loan from Labour

STAFF ON the proposed garden bridge in London will confiscate and destroy kites and musical instruments.

The government is giving the project £30 million. Transport for London is giving £30 million. Last week it was decided £20 million of that would be in the form of an interest free loan payable in 50 years time. This transformed the project from what Sadiq Khan, Labour's mayoral candidate, described as a "white elephant" to what he now says is "saving up to £20 million of Londoners' hard-earned money."



FAT CAT OF THE WEEK

No. 4123123

Dame Diana Thompson
Former Camelot boss

● She enjoyed a bumper pay day in her last year and has been handed a guaranteed winning ticket every year until the end of the decade.

● She received £600,000 in salary for her final seven months. She was also given a bonus of £1 million.

● Thompson will receive an annual payout until the plan ends in 2019.

There was a posh Tory called Chris

IT IS time for another posho election. Hereditary peers battle it out for a place in the House of Lords.

Edmund Christopher Pery, seventh Earl of Limerick, seventh Viscount Limerick of the City of Limerick, seventh Baron Foxford of Stackpole Court and eighth Baron Glentworth of Mallow is just one person.

The former diplomat, banker and lawyer who was educated at Eton and Oxford, uses rhyme in the place of a "candidature statement".

He doesn't manage to write a Limerick. You don't want to read it.

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk
Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"
Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7840 5656
Circulation
020 7840 5601



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 42184
London
SW8 2WD

Steel workers take to the streets to demand action

by DAVE SEWELL in Scunthorpe

Over 2,000 steel workers and supporters marched through Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, on Tuesday of this week chanting, "Save our steel".

Many blamed the Tories for letting their industry and their jobs go to the wall.

Steel worker James told Socialist Worker, "A lot of things have happened but the blame stops with the government—the problem is they only care about profit."

Tata Steel plans to cut 900 jobs in Scunthorpe, closing its plate mill and one of its coke ovens.

Scunthorpe coke oven worker Paul said his life was "all up in the air" with redundancy expected before Christmas. He added, "What I like about this protest is we're getting support from all over Britain, not just Scunthorpe—I've not seen that before."

Many families in Scunthorpe have relatives in the steelworks.

Mortgage

Neil Lawton said his son was set to lose his job on 18 December. "He took out a mortgage this year and has just had a baby daughter," Neil said. "If we don't do things like this march the bosses will walk all over us."

Another 270 jobs are to go at two Tata sites in Lanarkshire. Up to 400 marched in Motherwell last Saturday in the pouring rain to call on the Scottish government to find a buyer and save jobs.

EIS union members from the local college and engineers from Rolls Royce marched with steel workers. Labour and Scottish National Party MPs and MSPs joined them.

In a statement this week Tata strongly hinted it could close its long products division if it doesn't find a buyer by March next year.

"That would be game over for



STEEL WORKERS and supporters on the march earlier this week

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

Scunthorpe," said James. Contractor Antony warned that the real job losses would be double those announced once contractors were counted, and more still with the knock on effect to other firms.

The march was a sea of Unite, GMB and Community union flags and placards, with a handful of banners from other unions in the region.

But workers were joined by supporters from all walks of life.

Carer Mary, unemployed Barry and hotel worker Chris all said the same thing. In Chris's words, "If steel goes down so does the town."

Youth worker Vicky said, "There's already been massive cuts to services for young people. If the steelworks go it will force young people out of

the town."

As the march went through town people came out of their workplaces to applaud.

Labour MP Nic Dakin told the steel workers' rally this showed "the community is on our side".

Unite assistant general secretary Tony Burke urged workers to "keep fighting" and warned that "temporary nationalisation" could be necessary.

Controls

Unions are calling for cuts to business rates and energy cuts, for the government to buy British steel for its infrastructure projects and import controls against Chinese steel.

But import controls focus on the wrong enemy. Labour MP John Mann

took this to its absurd conclusion warning that the next generation in Britain would be "slaves to China".

Cost cutting measures to boost bosses' profits can seem like an alternative. But as Tata revealed last week even in the depth of its crisis it is making £300 million profit.

SSI, which closed Redcar steel, managed to swindle workers out of government funds aimed to help them cope with losing their jobs.

The cash hasn't stopped them ransacking jobs. Only action can do that.

Join protests against the steel closures.

Lanarkshire—March For Jobs, Sunday 15 November, 1pm, Brandon Parade, Motherwell

Yorkshire—Rally For Steel, Saturday 21 November, 2-5pm, Sheffield City Hall, Bakers Pool, Sheffield

Soas shows the way to defy Tory bill

>>continued from page 1

laws and walked out—three times.

Sandy was reinstated. He said, "We've built a tradition at Soas where the unions don't cross each other's picket lines."

"And we stand with one another in solidarity because it makes us all stronger."

"Bosses are looking at what the Tories are doing and thinking, now is the time to have a go. They know they're coming for us and will try to weaken the unions."

Yet rather than mobilise the collective power of six million trade unionists in Britain union leaders look elsewhere.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady places her faith in

the "employers queuing up to criticise the Trade Union Bill" and "backbench Conservatives seeking to amend" it. She took credit for a "climbdown" on some of the more draconian aspects of the bill.

The Tories decided that forcing pickets to give their names to the police and the requirement for a named picket line supervisor are to be dropped.

Unions won't have to annually report details of all protests and pickets or give advance notice of these protest plans to employers.

Of course this is good—but it is not a defeat for the Tories.

Like any decent negotiator, they had simply started by going for more than they expected to get.

So picket supervisors will still have to wear an identifying armband and carry a permission letter for the picket that bosses can demand to see. And they still have to give their details to the police.

If this is the best the TUC strategy can offer, it's time to step it up.

When the Tories try to enforce their new legislation, how are trade unionists going to respond?

As Sandy argues on page 11, "The only way we're going to defeat that is if we take the unofficial action and go beyond what our union bureaucrats will permit."

"Soas shows this can be done."

Sandy is speaking at the Unite the Resistance conference this Saturday. Go to uniteresist.org

IN BRIEF

Public money to defend cops

THE GOVERNMENT will give up to £5 million to South Yorkshire Police to help pay officers' legal costs at ongoing inquests into the Hillsborough disaster.

This followed a threat that some officers could withdraw cooperation.

Read more socialistworker.co.uk

Half cannot get enough care

A STUDY of 500 disabled people by the charity Scope found that over half could not get enough care to live independently.

Some slept fully clothed in their wheelchairs and went without food and drink because of lack of support.

Plenty of cash for prisons

THE TORIES are building nine new prisons with space for 10,000 prisoners.

They have managed to find over £1 billion for the project, despite budget cuts elsewhere.

England and Wales have the highest imprisonment rate in western Europe.

Government taken to court

THE SUPREME Court is hearing a case of a Libyan man who accuses the British government of conspiring in his "rendition" to Libya for torture in 2004.

Abdel-Hakim Belhadj, became Tripoli's military commander after Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi was ousted in 2011.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 In the danger zone: the oil rig workers fighting to defend safety at sea
- 2 Solidarity boosts solid strike at St Wilfrid's school in west Yorkshire
- 3 New immigration rules will keep killing refugees
- 4 Mobilise to stop the EDL in Bradford
- 5 Tax credits humiliation shows Tory weakness

PEOPLE'S
MARCH FOR
CLIMATE,
JUSTICE
AND JOBS

SCOTLAND & WALES
28 NOVEMBER

LONDON
29 NOVEMBER

PARIS
12 DECEMBER

campaigncc.org



Spooks, diplomats and Tories organise to push for more war

by JUDITH ORR

WARMONGERS ARE using the downing of a Russian jet killing 224 passengers and crew as justification for a new war in Syria.

Defence secretary Michael Fallon claimed it was “morally wrong” that Britain was not bombing Syria because Isis is “a very direct threat to us in Britain”.

Yet there is no evidence that Russia’s recent bombing campaign has made Russian citizens safer—if anything the opposite is true.

David Cameron disgracefully invited Egypt’s military president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to Downing Street last week (see report of protest page 19).

He said Sisi was helping to stop terrorism in the region.

Yet if, as recent reports suggest, the plane was bombed, it is proof that Sisi’s repression is not stopping terrorism.

The crackdown has led to the destruction of whole towns in the Sinai desert, where the plane came down. It has actually seen a growth in recruitment to Isis and other Islamist groups.

But for sections of the British ruling class the war drive is part of the project of maintaining Britain as a world player. A new report by former intelligence officers and diplomats laments the fact that Britain is not fighting more wars.

It complained that the “shadow of the UK’s participation in the Iraq War” had led governments to “shy away from significant foreign policy engagements”.

Aspirations

Such imperialist aspirations also drive spending priorities. Philip Dunne, Britain’s defence procurement minister, argued that a defence spending review due in two weeks should reflect the need for influence in the Middle East.

This means more arms sales to the Gulf regimes including to Saudi Arabia. Dunne claimed this will “broaden and strengthen our

BACK STORY

Warmongers are organising to encourage Britain to join the bombing campaign in Syria

● A report by former intelligence officers and diplomats blames Iraq for the lack of new wars

● Senior Tories claim people in Britain will face more terror attacks if they don’t join the war

● But it is Western wars and intervention that have boosted groups such as Isis

● The Tories want war to gain influence, not to help Syrians

contribution to the security and stability of the region”.

But the danger of losing a new vote for bombing Syria, after defeat in August 2013, haunts the Tories.

Then the vote was about bombing the forces of dictator president Bashar al-Assad. Today it is about bombing Isis forces fighting Assad.

Tory foreign secretary Philip Hammond said last Sunday that part of the Tories’ calculation was whether the “majority of Labour MPs would in fact back this action”.

The party is divided on the issue (see right).

But imperialist intervention is not the answer to the rise of Isis or to Assad’s brutal rule. The solution can only come from within Syria itself.

Assad has unleashed a war against all opposition to his regime that has led to 250,000 dead and over four million refugees fleeing the country.

The spread of Isis throughout Syria and Iraq is a product of the conditions left by the Iraq war.

Any new airstrikes will provide Isis with the defence that they are fighting imperialist attack. This can help build support for Isis rather than break it.



On other pages...

What’s behind Burma’s election result >> **Page 8**



SYRIANS SURVEY the wreckage after a Russian airstrike last month

Labour right go on attack over Trident

by NICK CLARK

THE ROW inside the Labour Party over Trident nuclear weapons continued after the head of the army criticised Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn’s anti-nuclear position.

Corbyn has said he will write to the Ministry of Defence to complain about Houghton’s political bias.

Undermined

But Labour’s shadow defence secretary Maria Eagle undermined him by saying there was nothing wrong with Houghton expressing his views.

Eagle and the majority of Corbyn’s shadow cabinet are in favour of renewing Trident. This is now said to cost £167 billion.

The argument over Trident is part of a bigger battle. Corbyn is under constant attack from forces to his right.

Labour right winger John Woodcock claimed last week that the majority of Labour



ANALYSIS

MPs would be prepared to defy Corbyn over Syria.

And Corbyn’s political adviser Andrew Fisher was suspended from Labour on Friday of last week after complaints from right wing MPs. Fisher has been accused of calling for people to vote for a candidate from the anarchist Class War organisation during the general election.

Former London mayor Ken Livingstone responded by calling for the suspension of Labour MPs Simon Danczuk and Frank Field, who have publicly attacked Corbyn. Others want to focus on replacing Labour right wingers with Corbyn supporters. Last month Corbyn supporters

launched the Momentum campaign. It aims to support Corbyn and organise community campaigns. Its supporters have held voter registration drives.

Battles

But some in Momentum have been quoted as saying their task is to “turn the attention of their supporters towards the battles that will take place within the Labour Party”.

Tensions inside Labour mean there is always infighting.

The selection of parliamentary candidates can become a site of struggle between left and right.

The choice of Jim McMahon as Labour’s candidate in the upcoming Oldham by-election is seen as a victory for the right.

But the strength of Corbyn’s election campaign was based on the hundreds of thousands of people who signed up looking for radical change.

It would be a shame if that potential was lost on internal Labour Party battles.

No fly zones are no answer

THE MEDIA attacked the Stop the War Coalition last week for its stance against no fly zones.

Socialist Worker argues that no fly zones are not an alternative to imperialist military intervention. They are another form of it.

Such zones have to be policed by fighter jets and ground to



An anti-war protester

air missiles. Now that Russia is flying bombing raids the risk of even greater escalation is high.

The political decision about which aircraft are allowed and which are the “enemy” will be taken by imperialist powers. They are only concerned with pursuing their own interests.

IN BRIEF

Junior doctors reject sham ‘pay rise’ as ballot begins

TORY health secretary Jeremy Hunt was trying to defuse the junior doctors’ revolt as strike ballot papers went out last week.

The British Medical Association (BMA) is balloting for industrial action over contracts that would rip apart conditions and put patient safety at risk.

Hunt tried to buy doctors off with a supposed 11 percent pay offer, but the BMA’s junior doctors’ committee rejected it.

Rory Hicks from Manchester explained, “It would be an 11 percent rise to our basic salary, but the majority rely on unsocial hours payments for 50 percent of our actual salary. That would still mean an over 20 percent cut.”

The new contracts would force doctors



JUNIOR DOCTORS protesting in London last month

to work dangerous hours, force staff out and intensify the NHS crisis (see page 17).

GPs in east London have organised a support meeting for 24 November, six days after the ballot ends. GP Jackie Turner said, “It can give junior doctors confidence to take industrial action—we want to

see picket lines across hospitals led by junior doctors.”

John Burgess, the left candidate for Unison general secretary, told Socialist Worker, “Unison should already have been out supporting junior doctors.”

For a longer version see socialistworker.co.uk

Students march in London against new cuts and racism

THOUSANDS of students marched through central London on Wednesday of last week against Tory plans to scrap the Maintenance Grant.

Organisers said more than 10,000 people took part.

Protesters were also marching against immigration controls and the Prevent strategy, which makes universities spy on



On the march

Muslim students. NUS vice president for welfare, Shelly Asquith, told Socialist

Worker, “We’re really worried that black and Muslim students are being profiled.”

The National Campaign against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC) called the demo and the Student Assembly Against Austerity backed it.

Students plan a walkout in solidarity with migrants on Tuesday 17 November.

Longer online at bit.ly/1QoVCFw

Life expectancy gap grows

PEOPLE FROM the poorest areas can expect to die more than eight years earlier than those in the richest, according to new figures.

And the gap between the richest and poorest parts of England and Wales has grown.

The Office for National Statistics looked at life expectancy at birth and at age 65 in 2012 to 2014.

Boys born in

wealthy Kensington and Chelsea can expect to live for more than 83 years.

Yet those born in Blackpool can expect to die before they reach 75.

For newborn girls the area with the highest life expectancy, of 86.7 years, was Chiltern.

Yet girls born in Middlesbrough are likely to die before they reach 80.

Increases in life expectancy have

benefited people living in richer areas.

Life expectancy for boys born in Kensington and Chelsea rose by 10.3 years between 1991 to 1993 and 2012 to 2014. For newborn boys in Blackpool it rose by just 3.1 years.

In 1991 to 1993 newborn boys with the highest life expectancy could expect to live 8.3 years longer than those with the lowest. Now it is 8.6 years.

Socialist WorkerWHAT WE THINK

MASS RESISTANCE CAN BEAT DIVIDED TORIES

GEORGE Osborne’s announcement of 30 percent cuts to the budgets of four government departments is just a taste of what is to come.

The scale of cuts due in his autumn statement in two weeks’ time is eye-watering. If the Tories get away with it, the impact on the welfare state will be catastrophic.

Even now, with the bulk of attacks still to come, a new report from the charity Scope described the effect of cuts on disabled people who rely on carers.

Some described waiting 14 hours to be taken to the toilet. Others say they go without food if their carers’ visit time is cut back.

All this is in the name of austerity to fix the economy.

This economic crisis began in 2008 and the Tories have been in office since 2010.

After six years of brutal attacks they keep on piling on more cuts. And there is no sign of real recovery (see page 6).

In fact the Tories haven’t cut back public spending as they wanted. In the coalition government they blamed the

Lib Dems for holding them back. They went into May’s general election campaign with a target they expected to have to negotiate down in another coalition.

They even row among themselves about what to do. Iain Duncan Smith is holding out against cuts to his Department for Work and Pensions.

This is not because he cares about the people who depend on welfare benefits. His project is to reshape the whole welfare state, and he doesn’t want to abandon it.

To distract us the Tories want us to blame immigrants for overstretched public services.

So David Cameron has set off

“It’s in the interests of all working class people to oppose this government

International negotiations aimed at limiting warming below two degrees have been a farce—one that looks set to continue in Paris from the end of this month.

Politicians have failed to confront big business. So they have agreed only to move deckchairs around the Titanic.

There is an alternative, as underlined in the US last week when president Barack Obama finally dropped plans for the Keystone oil pipeline.

It is in large part a victory for

on a mission to get the European Union (EU) to agree that he can discriminate against migrants.

He wants to ban migrants living in Britain from receiving some welfare benefits for four years.

Cameron wants to be seen as standing up for British interests against the EU. He will use rhetoric to play to the “Little Englanders” in the Tory party.

But he and whole sections of the ruling class, including the bosses’ CBI, want to stay inside it.

They see it as a vehicle to protect their profits.

There is no such thing as British interests. There are only class interests. If Cameron can take benefits from EU workers it will make it easier to take benefits from everyone.

If Osborne can drive through 30 percent cuts while unions’ right to organise is attacked he will just come back for more.

It’s in the interests of all working class people to oppose this vicious government. The Tories have a narrow majority—they can be pushed back.

If trade union leaders led mass resistance we could stop all the attacks and kick out the Tories once and for all.

JOIN PARIS PROTESTS

THE WORLD’S average surface temperature is set to reach one degree Celsius higher than pre-industrial levels, the Met Office predicted this week.

Part of the effect is due to El Nino weather patterns this year. But it’s also confirmation that global warming is in full swing.

It’s already brought chaotic weather, extinctions, and begun to break up ice sheets that could one day flood dozens of major cities.

SOCIALIST REVIEW

NOVEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW – ONLY £3

FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY TO THE TRADE UNION BILL

POLITICS AND SOLIDARITY CAN WIN

Can Corbynomics work? Simon Guy

The insurgency at Europe’s borders Matt Carr

US Marxist Grace Lee Boggs Christian Høgsbjerg

To order copies or subscribe contact 020 7840 5630

office@socialistreview.org.uk or www.socialistreview.org.uk

Get Socialist Worker every week

If you liked this issue of Socialist Worker, why not subscribe?

You’ll receive 20 pages of news, analysis and political debate every week for just £5 a month

Phone 020 7840 5601 or email circulation at circ@socialistworker.co.uk



ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Economic recovery has a human price

WHICH WAY is the world economy going? The view seems quite different depending on which side of the Atlantic you are.

The governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, announced last week that the British interest rate may remain at the ultra-low level of 0.5 percent till 2017. The main reason he gave was the slowdown of the so-called “emerging market” economies—China, Brazil, and the like.

Andy Haldane, the Bank’s chief economist, went even further in September, when he proposed that interest rates be cut. He said, “Recent events form the latest leg of what might be called a three-part crisis trilogy. Part One of that trilogy was the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ crisis of 2008-9.

“Part Two was the ‘Euro-Area’ crisis of 2011/12. And we may now be entering the early stages of Part Three of the trilogy, the ‘Emerging Market’ crisis of 2015 onwards.”

But across the pond, the Federal Reserve Board, the Bank’s American counterpart, is preparing to raise interest rates, probably in December. On Friday last week the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that employment in the United States had risen by 271,000 in October.

“America’s jobs market roared into top gear last month,” enthused the Financial Times breathlessly. Mainstream economists argue that the US economy is now nearing full employment and so the Fed must raise interest rates to prevent it overheating.

The hype seems overstated. On average, 187,000 jobs were created in each of the past three months in the US, still way below the 2014 monthly average of 260,000. The economy grew in the third quarter of 2015 by a miserly 1.5 percent, and the latest estimates for manufacturing are poor.

Moreover, participation in the labour force was 62.4 percent in October, the lowest level since the late 1970s. Many people have just stopped looking for jobs.

This may be related to a finding by the economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton. They found that the death rate among middle-aged white (non-Hispanic) Americans without college degrees rose sharply between 1999 and 2013. Both are evidence of a working class demoralised by low pay and harsh working conditions.

The tepid recovery from the Great Recession of 2008-9 has led many US economists—for example, Lawrence Summers and Paul Krugman—to argue, like Haldane, that interest rates are too low.

Boosted

The wild card in all this is China. China’s strong growth after 2008-9 boosted other “emerging market” economies that supply it with food and raw materials. But this growth depended on a huge increase in borrowing and investment that expanded productive capacity faster than markets could absorb the commodities it generated.

Now investment is being cut back, and China’s economic growth is slowing. In October imports and exports both fell. The volume of iron ore imports fell by 12.3 percent and of coal by 21.4 percent.

This has a knock-on effect on economies like Brazil’s, which supplies China with iron ore. A couple of weeks ago I visited the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, and saw for myself how it is riddled with iron mines. A tidal wave of mud and waste from one of them engulfed the little town of Bento Rodrigues last week, leaving dozens of people missing.

This tragedy is a reminder of the many ways in which the relentless global process of capital accumulation victimises people. But it will be merely a brief blip on the financial markets’ radar.

Their preoccupation is with how China’s slowdown has brought down the price of iron and other raw materials. This is squeezing the profits of transnational corporations such as BHP Billiton and Vale, the owners of the mine in question.

The real problem isn’t that interest rates are too high or too low. It is that capitalist economies are geared to the pursuit of profit. The Marxist blogger Michael Roberts argues that the crisis we are still experiencing reflects the fact that the rate of profit is too low and hence firms are unwilling to invest. But the disaster at Bento Rodrigues and the US mortality figures reminds us of the human price exacted by the search for profit.

Spying bill makes it legal for spooks to read your emails

by SIMON BASKETTER

THERESA MAY, the home secretary, presented the draft **Investigatory Powers Bill** to the House of Commons last week.

Her speech was peppered with “transparency”, “oversight” and “double locks”. It seemed to hypnotise sections of the press.

In files leaked by Edward Snowden in 2013 the spies wrote, “Our main concern is that references to agency practices (ie the scale of interception and deletion) could lead to damaging public debate.”

They needn’t have worried. A few spy-sponsored tours of the GCHQ spy centre and a new Bond movie helped the press relax.

MI5 chief Andrew Parker denied the spooks were seeking “sweeping new intrusive powers”. At one level this is true.

The bill is about legitimising dodgy practices which have been taking place already.

Harvest

Successive governments have let the intelligence agencies harvest vast amounts data—phone calls, text messages and emails.

Currently GCHQ eavesdrops on calls made by American citizens and the US National Security Agency monitors calls made by British citizens.

This allows each government plausibly to deny it has tapped its own citizens’ calls.

The government is now

being “open” and placing bulk data collection on a legal footing.

Ministers will have to get a “judicial commissioner’s” approval if they want the police or intelligence services to hack phones or laptops, or check online activity.

SHADY CHARACTERS—a worker at GCHQ headquarters (above) Tory home secretary Theresa May (left)

The judicial commissioner’s “authorisation” is a rubber-stamping exercise, and can be by-passed if the situation is deemed “urgent”.

Internet providers will have to store our browsing history for a year. The government claim that this will not mean looking at web pages people view.

In fact the data covered by the bill means it will be possible to tell which web pages people look at.

The home secretary would be able to force companies to put in “back doors”—a means of access that bypasses security—to their software.

Revealing the existence of those back doors is a criminal offence punishable by up to 12 months in prison. So it will be easier to spy on people—and a criminal offense to tell anyone about it.

Banal as it was predictable, Tory MP Richard Graham said, “If you’ve nothing to hide then you’ve nothing to fear.”

In truth the bill is a rather grubby attempt to give the spooks more powers.

Licence to kill in Northern Ireland

SECRET government files have been released about **Operation Motorman**.

That was the large scale incursion by British troops against the “no-go” areas in Northern Ireland in July 1972.

The papers show soldiers and police were given assurances of immunity against prosecution for their actions.

In the run up to the operation around 4,000 additional troops were drafted into Northern Ireland. Around 22,000 troops were involved.

British soldiers killed 15 year old Daniel

Hegarty and 19 year old IRA man Seamus Bradley.

Seamus’s family say that after shooting him the army took him away and tortured him.

The documents are released as part of the case of the killing of Seamus. They state British forces wanted “an extension of legal powers to free our hands” and “modified rules of engagement within the principle of reasonableness to permit greater freedom of action”.

One document states, “Sporadic terrorist activity will probably

continue, and bombing will present the most difficult problem for the Security Forces.

“A period of several weeks of selective search, arrest and surveillance operations backed by interrogation and internment, will be required before the IRA organisation is, in effect, neutralised.”

Paragraphs on how future intelligence operations were to be controlled and reinforced are redacted. So is the section outlining British “Interrogation Policy”.

For a longer version see socialistworker.co.uk

FIGURE IT OUT

22,000

British soldiers involved in Operation Motorman

15

The age of Daniel Hegarty when he was shot twice in the head by a British soldier during the operation.

2

Inquests held into Daniel’s death. The last one, in 2011, found he posed no risk when he was killed

0

Soldiers prosecuted over Daniel’s killing

Lecturers strike to beat college pay freeze

A walkout by college lecturers could launch a fight to defend education, reports **Sadie Robinson**

COLLEGE LECTURERS across England struck on Tuesday of this week. The UCU union members are fighting a pay freeze—following years of real terms pay cuts.

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt told Socialist Worker that the pay freeze was “a real insult”.

Attacks on education are also driving workers to fight.

More than 25 strikers picketed at Barnsley College in South Yorkshire. The local trades council sent a solidarity delegation.

UCU branch secretary Lee Short said the action was popular among workers. “We have had people joining the union in the run-up to the strike,” he told Socialist Worker.

“Our strike has caused massive disruption. Now we need to get Unison union members involved and have further days of national action.”

Richard McEwan, a UCU rep at Tower Hamlets College in east London, said, “People want to fight to save further education.”

“We face college mergers, course cuts and job losses.”

“But we’ve heard of lots of places where people are joining the union to be part of the strike. And there are more new activists who want to fight becoming reps.”

Dave, a striker at Harlow College in Essex, said the response to the strike was “positive”. He said, “We had 12 people picketing and we covered all three entrances.”

Close

Government figures released on the strike day showed that planned Tory funding cuts could close four out of ten sixth form and further education colleges.

The impact of cuts already rammed through was clear in some areas. Margot Hill, a UCU rep at Croydon College, said some workers there had taken voluntary redundancy and left the college.

But she added, “We had about 15 people picketing so it has held up despite us losing some of our activists.”

BACK STORY

College lecturers are fighting attacks on pay and education

- College bosses have recommended a pay freeze for workers this academic year
- But members of the UCU union voted by nearly 74 percent to strike against the pay cut
- The strikers are demanding a £1 an hour pay rise for all
- Many strikers hope the strike can also defend education and build the fight to stop Tory funding cuts

The stakes are high.

As Dave put it, “The government wants to scrap further education because it can’t make money from it.

If we don’t have a serious fightback, we could lose it all.”

Scrapped

Pauline Hall is now a sessional lecturer after bosses in Kent scrapped her post.

She told Socialist Worker, “Pay has gone down in real terms. Pay for a sessional lecturer used to be £25 an hour—now adverts say between £18 and £23 an hour.

“Further education has been semi-privatised and principal salaries have gone through the roof.”

Strikers joined a rally in central London with shadow chancellor John McDonnell and protested outside the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The strike showed a willingness to fight back that can be built upon.

But not all colleges were on strike as some UCU branches had decided to negotiate individually.

Activists argued that the strike must be just the start—and that the fight should be broadened to other unions.

As Pauline said, “I think we need to carry on and escalate after this. This is about the future of education.”



ON THE picket line at Barnsley College

PICTURE: FRAN POSTLETHWAITE

Scottish college workers could take action as top bosses loot thousands

SCOTLAND’S COLLEGE workers are inching closer to the first national strike for 20 years. Anger at government cuts and a miserly national pay offer have fuelled a mood to fight.

Members of the EIS Fela college lecturers’ union were set to meet at a special conference in Glasgow on Friday of this week.

They will debate strategy in their pay fight.

And the Unison union is recommending college support staff reject employers’ latest offer in a ballot ahead of pay talks on 19 November.

The current offer is far short of workers’ demands.

Cash

The Scottish National Party (SNP) government’s cutbacks mean there are fewer staff, lower student numbers and less cash in further education (FE). The SNP has tried to disguise its cuts through a programme of college mergers.

The mergers brought Scotland’s colleges back into the public sector and returned pay negotiations to national bargaining.

The current dispute is the first of those negotiations.

Workers are furious that, at a time of cuts, bosses squirrelled away college cash and trousered hefty payoffs for themselves.

Severance payments for those at the top have been so outrageous that MSPs are now scrutinising the details. One such example is Coatbridge College, now part of New College Lanarkshire.

Senior staff at Coatbridge are accused of collusion in handing £849,842 to former principal John

Doyle, a member of his staff and five senior managers.

One EIS Fela member who worked at Coatbridge College called the payoffs “looting”.

They said, “These managers gave themselves plush offices, grand titles and obscene salaries.”

“They introduced competition between colleges and sacked those who stood in their way.

Inequality

“Back in the real world staff are being asked to accept the inequality of £7,000 difference in pay for doing the same job.

“And they insult us with a 1 percent pay rise, almost a year late. I’ll be rejecting their lousy offer and arguing for sustained strikes.”

The EIS has also exposed that tens of millions of pounds of cash reserves were transferred to arm’s length private trusts by college bosses over the past few years.

The employers have pleaded poverty and dragged pay negotiations out for far too long.

Union leaders now need to ballot for strikes.

Raymie Kiernan



Big payoff—college boss John Doyle



IN BRIEF

Strike over cuts in Switzerland

PUBLIC SECTOR workers across Switzerland struck against cuts on Tuesday of this week.

The action was called as a “rolling strike”.

That means workers’ assemblies could extend to join a construction workers’ strike on Wednesday of this week.

The government aims to cut its public sector wage bill by 5 percent next year.

That means 1,800 job cuts with longer hours for those who stay.

Nazis join racist protest in Berlin

UP TO 4,000 racists and Nazis demonstrated in Berlin last Saturday—the largest such demonstration in the German capital in memory.

The demo was organised by Alternative für Deutschland (AfD), a right wing populist organisation.

Several recent AfD demos have had a significant presence from the more explicitly Nazi NPD.

Angela Merkel’s government tried to tighten restrictions on Syrian refugees the day before the protest.

Rosemarie Nünning and Phil Butland

For a longer version go to socialistworker.co.uk

Madrid march against violence

A HUGE march demanded an end to violence against women in Madrid last Saturday.

Organisers said half a million people took part.

Marchers included leading figures from all the main political parties, as well as trade unions and campaigning organisations.

Some 41 women have been killed in the Spanish state by partners or ex-partners so far this year. Protesters chanted, “Not one more”.

FIGURE IT OUT

41 women killed in the Spanish state by partners or ex-partners so far this year

52 women killed in the Spanish state by partners or ex-partners in 2012

10 percentage increase in women calling a domestic violence helpline in Spain recorded in the first half of this year

Vote in Burma reflects a deep desire for change

by GILES JIUNGPAKORN

BURMA IS not moving away from military rule towards democracy despite the impressive victory of Aung San Suu Kyi’s party in recent elections.

The Burmese military has been in power for the past half century. It is retaining a tight grip on politics by reserving for itself a quarter of seats in the lower and upper houses.

The interior, defence and border ministers will be military officers and the military has a veto on any constitution changes.

It retains the right to intervene at will in times of “crisis”.

The president is elected from three nominations—two from parliament and one from the military.

The two candidates who fail to gain the most votes will still be vice presidents.

Barred

Aung San Suu Kyi is barred from the position because of a law designed specifically to exclude her.

But we should have no illusions in Aung San Suu Kyi or her party the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Suu Kyi has taken a sharp Islamophobic line over the last couple of years.

Buddhist extremists, with the connivance of the military, have violently attacked the persecuted Muslim Rohingyas. Suu Kyi has deliberately ignored their plight.

Thousands of Rohingya people have been forced to escape by boat as refugees to neighbouring countries.

The NLD and the “military party”, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), both barred Muslims from standing

as candidates. Non-Rohingya Muslims, who make up five percent of the population, have faced racist obstacles to voter registration.

Despite her brave principles, Aung San Suu Kyi is a neoliberal politician.

She placed a fatal dampener on an anti-military uprising in 1988 just as it was on the verge of victory. Since then she has been reaching out to the military.

Recently she said that if her party won an overall majority she would form a “government of national unity”—including the military.

This would not solve the high levels of inequality in Burma.

Nor will it give voice to the aspirations for autonomy of a number of ethnic minority groups that have waged civil war against the central government.

Suu Kyi has never recognised the legitimacy of such aspirations.

The elections generated a mood of political excitement for many people in Burma.

The turnout was high.

The NLD could dissipate this mood over the months and years as it tries to dampen expectations. Or it could generate a new eagerness to fight against the military.

The latter will require political organisation independent of the Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD.



On other pages...

Cyprus shows up Tory refugee lies
>>Page 20

GREECE

Creditors hold Tsipras to ransom as general strike looms

WORKERS ACROSS Greece were set to walk out in a general strike on Thursday of this week against deep cuts to their pensions.

It follows a wave of strikes that continued to grow last week.

Shipping workers extended a solid two-day strike to four days. Local government workers occupied town halls.

Students marched in central Athens and a mass university occupation in Crete entered its fourth week.

Thousands of disabled people protested against the effects of a crisis that has hit them hardest.

And the first worker-run strike edition of Thessalonica newspaper

The Messenger came out on Wednesday of last week, after bosses tried to close it.

Meanwhile Greece’s creditors forced a new stand-off with its left wing government.

They aren’t satisfied with prime minister and Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras’ near total surrender.

Tsipras is implementing a “memorandum” of austerity and privatisation in return for Greece’s third bailout from European institutions and the International Monetary Fund.

But creditors withheld £1.4 billion due to be paid to Greece on Monday of this week, as well as new support for its banks.

Tsipras sought to renegotiate their demands—which included a tax on private schools and making generic medicines more expensive.

The biggest sticking point was making it easier for banks to repossess homes.

Eurogroup meetings and other summits were set to take place through the week.

Tsipras was re-elected in September. He has argued that a third memorandum was inevitable but claimed a left government could soften the blow.

The institutions refuse to let him do even this. A fightback from below is the way to beat austerity.

Dave Sewell

Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras

I welcome migrants

I SAW your article in relation to the GMB union election (Socialist Worker, 7 November). I want to put the record straight on an absolute inaccuracy that you allege.

I have NEVER said that we need to "regain control of our borders".

That is not my language or belief and never has been.

What I have consistently said is that the use of migrant workers by employers to drive down pay and conditions is an abuse of ALL workers.

It is the employer we should target.

I personally campaigned in this regard against Next, amongst others, at Christmas last year.

This was widely covered in the media and is FACT. I welcome migrant workers.

My region has a thriving migrant workers' branch which I personally helped to set up.

I am also on record as condemning this government for their pathetic offer of help to refugees.

I do not want support or an endorsement from Socialist Worker, just truth and accuracy in your reporting.

Tim Roache

Yorkshire and North Derbyshire
GMB Regional Secretary

● Last week Socialist Worker ran an article on the GMB general secretary election.

We reported that the candidate Tim Roache had attended a fringe meeting at GMB congress in 2014, where he said, "we need to regain control of our borders" to tackle Ukip.

Our reporter was present at the meeting and we are confident that his notes are accurate.



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Blaming Muslims confuses the reality of child abuse

I READ with interest your article on child abuse (Socialist Worker, 7 November).

You are absolutely right. The chances of being sexually abused by a stranger or grooming gang is statistically very low.

Research shows that one out of every four girls will be sexually abused before her 18th birthday.

Some 93 percent of the time the abuser is a person of trust, and 80 percent of abuse is carried out at the home of the victim or abuser.

It was against this backdrop that last year we started our organisation the Pakistani Anti-Grooming and Abuse League (PAGAL). Our aim is to ensure that ALL girls (regardless of race,

religion, colour or creed) are protected from sexual abuse.

There is a concerted campaign by right wing organisations to put all the blame for the culture of abuse that exists in Britain at the doorstep of the Pakistani community. In reality most child sexual abuse is committed by someone in the victim's family.

Talking about Muslim grooming gangs conveniently ignores the real problem.

Your article talks about the issues people face reporting abuse and getting justice, closure and convictions. Unfortunately the outright failure of official agencies in tackling this problem has led to the current state of affairs.

I pray that politicians in

Westminster start taking this issue seriously.

Although given that there are various allegations against MPs, I am not too optimistic that they will treat this as a priority.

Grooming and abuse can deprive a girl of her education and lead to a culture of drugs, alcohol, theft, prostitution, self-harm and prison.

We want to raise awareness of the problem and ensure all girls are protected from sexual abuse.

Society will be that much poorer for its inaction in dealing with this.

Tanweer Khan

Chair,

Pakistani Anti-Grooming and Abuse League

www.pagal.org.uk

'Racist' witness behind Tory Trojan Horse lies

IT TURNS out that one of the government's key witnesses in the "Trojan Horse" scandal may be a racist.

An anonymous letter in 2014 claimed that Islamists had been plotting to take over a number of schools in Birmingham.

The Tories used this as an excuse to step up attacks on Muslims.

A teaching misconduct hearing into the scandal is ongoing.

But a key witness has been accused of making racist comments.

"Witness A"—an ex member of staff at Park View school—was asked if she had ever made a comment that referred to Pakistanis as "thick".

Witness A denies having said this.

But if true, it will point to what really lies behind the Trojan Horse scandal.

Mirfat Sulaiman

Birmingham

Mahienour fights on in prison

WE VISITED my sister Mahienour el-Massry in prison in Egypt last week.

The situation has been atrocious for the past three weeks. The number of prisoners in Mahie's room has reached 27—in one room. This literally means that the women sleep on top of each other.

Water is only available four hours a day. So the



Egyptian revolutionary Mahienour el-Massry

thing they call a bathroom is completely inhumane and is present inside the room where they sleep.

Mahie is of course not silent and has complained to the mayor to make them

solve the problem of the water.

Maysoon el-Massry

Egypt

This is an abridged version of a letter posted on Facebook. See bit.ly/1WE0IM9

Just a thought...

Another world is possible

I HAVE been an active online reader of Socialist Worker for years now.

I will continue until the last day of my life supporting, volunteering and struggling for the socialist cause.

We live in an inhumane system that at times is difficult. But I believe another reality is possible and socialism is the path.

Fernando Dan A. Mattosa

Montevideo, Uruguay

Read Marx? A capital idea!

MEMBERS OF the Socialist Workers Party in London have started a capital reading group.

The group was so oversubscribed we've had to break into two groups! There's still a lot of interest in Marx's theory—and the discussion really helped us get to grips with it.

Gabby Thorpe

West London

There's room for refugees

SO NOW Austria is building border fences to keep refugees out (Socialist Worker, 7 November).

But there is capacity in Europe to take in millions if needs be. Sudan took in 800,000 refugees from Ethiopia and Eritrea in 1990s.

David Seddon

Norfolk

Israel's new law to jail kids

THE ISRAELI parliament has just increased the minimum prison sentence for stone throwing to three years in a bid to clamp down on Palestinian protesters.

The law will affect minors and young people primarily.

Killing Palestinians is fine in Israel.

But a young child throwing a stone in protest will feel the full force of their unjust law.

Adam Cochrane

Essex

Students still show the way

I HEARD about the student protest in London last week.

Good to see students fighting back again.

Rob J

on Twitter

Unison union rep Sandy Nicoll won reinstatement last week after an unofficial walkout by fellow workers at the School of Oriental and African Studies. He spoke to **Raymie Kiernan** about how activists there have built the union

THE TORIES' attack on unions has given bosses a green light to move against leading trade union militants.

Weakening union organisation is central to the Trade Union Bill—but workers have shown we can still beat the bosses.

Sandy Nicoll, the branch secretary of the Unison union at the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas), was reinstated last week after a magnificent series of unofficial walkouts.

Management suspended Sandy on trumped up charges of “gross misconduct” linked to supporting a student protest.

But the next morning a rebellion of staff and students shut Soas down. Some 60 Unison and 20 UCU lecturers' union members walked out unofficially and mobilised students behind them.

Their action grew stronger on day two as solidarity poured in from across the trade union movement.

Workers didn't wait for a ballot. They defied the trade union laws—and they won.

And because the Unison branch has supported other Soas workers and students, people returned the solidarity when bosses attacked Sandy. This was also key to shaping the Unison members' response.

“We were clear to people that if they walked out without a ballot they had no legal protection,” Sandy explained to Socialist Worker.

“But they were bolstered by knowing we'd get a strong response from UCU and the student union.”

Decline

Sandy explained, “This all happened through political argument over time. We argued about making Soas work the way we want it to work—instead of management's spiral of decline.”

The backdrop to Sandy's victimisation was management's plans to slash the budget by 10 percent—some £6.5 million.

Claire Locke, Unison chair at London Metropolitan University, told Socialist Worker it was “no coincidence” Sandy was targeted when management was planning large cuts.



It's vital for unions to take up political issues. You can't build on bread and butter alone

“They targeted our branch secretary Max Watson through compulsory redundancy just before announcing the closure of our City Campus,” she said. “We're now looking at a third of jobs being cut—the university wants to weaken the union to push that through” (see page 18).

New Soas director Baroness Amos has been leading the charge. But students saw the writing on the wall and went into occupation last month.

Sandy explained, “Ever since management has been desperately trying to regain the initiative. My victimisation was part of that attempt—but it has blown up in their faces.”

Solidarity

He explained that patient work has built a “two-way street” of solidarity between the unions and the students. “There will be issues, such as tuition fees, where we don't seem to have a direct interest but still support,” he said.

“Soas Unison supports free education and we make sure our banner has been on every demonstration.”

Mobilising support for Sandy in the movement was easier because the branch's banner is well-known for bringing solidarity to many struggles.

Steve Hedley, RMT union assistant general secretary, brought solidarity to Soas. He told Socialist Worker, “Picking out class fighters like Sandy and Glen Hart (see page 18) is part of the Tories' and bosses' strategy.

“We must smash their plans with coordinated industrial action.”

For many Unison members the walkout was “the right thing to do”. Library worker Val explained, “I've seen Sandy support so many people in the past—we need him to continue to do that.”

A UCU member added, “Management wanting large-scale cuts lies behind all of this. And that's why I'm refusing to go against my Unison colleagues' decision not to go in.”

This may all feel like a far cry from workplace organisation generally.

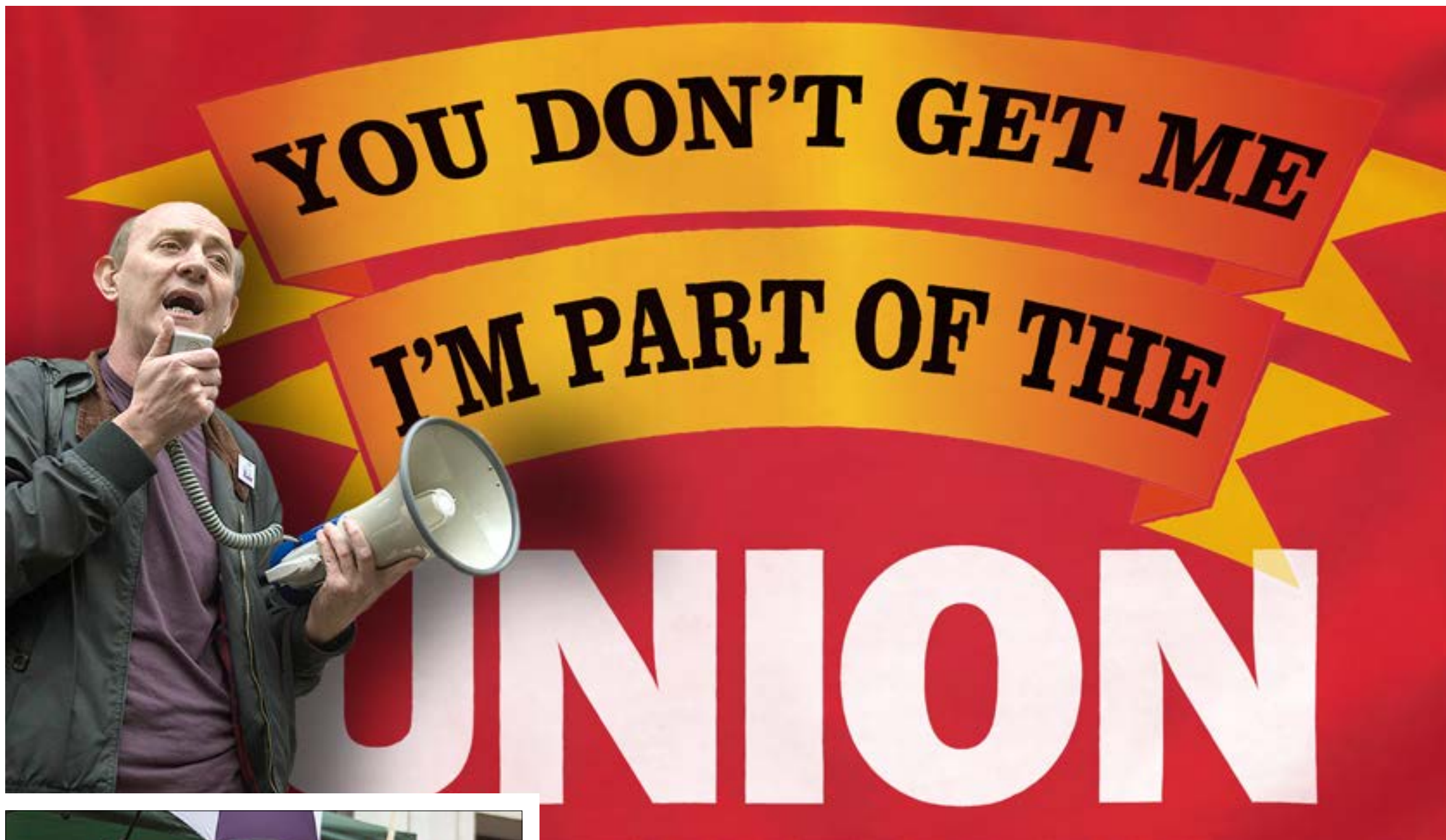
But, as Sandy said, “There's nothing magical about Soas. You build loyalty from branch members because they know their situation would be shittier if the union wasn't there.

“Like every other union rep I spend a lot of time doing case work—it's unavoidable and necessary.

“But it's absolutely vital for trade union branches to take up political issues. You can't build the kind of strength you need by just focusing on ‘bread and butter’ issues.

“We've spent time building relationships with the students and lecturers. We've worked together on campaigns ranging from Justice for Cleaners (see box) to climate change, tuition fees and opposing the Prevent agenda.”

Sandy explained this means there's a “natural feeling of unity”, but that



Fighting for cleaners' rights at SOAS in 2014

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

they “have to constantly build on it because management always try to fragment it”.

Sandy said, “That means having a political approach to taking on the arguments.”

Taking up hard arguments became crucial when management argued that student occupiers were being aggressive towards staff.

Sandy said, “It's like the opening scene from the film Suffragettes where they are smashing windows on Oxford Street. There's the obvious question—did that distress or alarm shop workers? Quite possibly. Were they a target of it? No.

“You always need to think about who the real enemy is—then you identify the issues that you can build relationships around.

“That's so important to forging the solidarity we've seen.”

Every union faces the problem of creating new layers of activists. Sandy argued, “You can relate to a layer of people that will become union activists if you show the union takes up bigger issues and is key to mobilising.

“Some of Soas' best union case workers were recruited almost directly from the anti-war or student movements.”

“I've struggled, like most branches, when people end up moving on to other places. It feels like you're banging your head against a brick wall but you've just got to start again.”

Keeping on looking outwards and fighting to get out from under the



Cleaners dancing on one of their strike days

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

load of casework is key to finding new opportunities.

Activists this year set up a stall at the fresher's fair to explain trade unionism. “We got a huge amount of interest from people,” said Sandy.

“This is something we could take up across the movement. While there are always local specifics the issues we face are the same—shit pay, cuts and privatisation.”

With working class living standards threatened by billions more in Tory cuts this is more urgent than ever. Public sector workers need to look to the people they deliver services to as allies.

Barnet Unison's campaign against the north London Tory council's privatisation programme also shows how

unions can link the local community into struggle. Residents mobilised by Unison are now central to dismantling the Tory council's arguments.

Sandy said, “Through working with the community and having a political approach we can take up campaigns and win the arguments.”

“Sometimes unions don't want to get involved in things they don't dominate—that's a big mistake.

“That's why I'm supporting John Burgess, the Barnet branch secretary, to become general secretary—instead of the leadership's control freaks.”

Building these kinds of alliances can transform what the unions can do on the ground and what it's possible to win with that wider support.

“If you get stuck in your bunker you end up getting battered,” Sandy said. We need fighting unions that stop austerity.”

The Trade Union Bill is another attack on union members. It also shifts the balance of power in the unions further towards the bureaucracy.

Sandy argued, “The only way we're going to defeat that is by taking unofficial action beyond what our union bureaucrats will permit.

“Soas shows this can be done. And if we've got the confidence to do that we can rebuild rank and file confidence to take action.

“That's fundamental. And it can help us transform the balance between the rank and file and union bureaucracy in a positive direction.”



PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

RALLYING AND striking for Sandy last month

Soas cleaners' campaign built union across London

JUSTICE FOR Cleaners is probably the most well-known campaign at Soas. The Unison branch is central, but it involves the whole of Soas—lecturers, support staff and students.

It has actively backed solid strikes, which have won real gains for the cleaners. But it hasn't been an easy or quick campaign without its casualties.

Cleaners who've been willing to stand up and fight have been victimised or lost their jobs. But people have kept fighting—sometimes against huge odds. Juan Carlos Piedra was a Soas cleaner. “I've known Sandy since 2006 working in the cleaners' campaign,” he said.

The experience of the struggle he gained at Soas strengthened him for other battles. Now a University of East London (UEL) Unison cleaners' rep, Juan Carlos said, “I'm now putting all those lessons into practice in our fight for union recognition at UEL.”

Lessons in how to win

SEVERAL BOSSES have tried to victimise rank and file union activists.

But there is a small list of militants who've won their reinstatement in the last year after campaigns of strikes.

That includes Rotherham Advertiser NUJ union rep Phil Turner and Candy Udwin, PCS union rep at the National Gallery.

Now Sandy's reinstatement again demonstrates the kind of action that can beat the bosses.

Soas bosses' ongoing disciplinary procedure may well be a face-saving exercise,

Sandy said, “In a lot of universities the relationship between the academics and the support staff is fraught.

“They don't see the contribution support staff make.

“When we were building the cleaners' campaign we went to the UCU branch and talked about how support staff provide spaces fit to work in.”

Outsourced

Taking up all these arguments “puts us in a much stronger position to challenge management more systematically”.

Everyone benefits from a campaign against outsourced services and low pay and bad terms and conditions.

And in the best tradition, people are spreading the lessons of working class struggle. Around a dozen London universities have been touched by the Soas cleaners' experience.

but vigilance against reprisals is vital. But it's a powerful example of what's possible. These victories show workers' collective action can beat union-busting bosses.



Phil Turner and Candy Udwin

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

MANCHESTER

Marxism and Women's Liberation

Book launch with author Judith Orr.
Wed 25 Nov, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

Is the media all powerful?

Thu 19 Nov, 6pm,
Belmont Cinema Cafe,
49 Belmont St,
AB10 1JS

BARNSELEY

The class struggle in Greece today

Thu 19 Nov, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BOLTON

Who was Leon Trotsky?

Wed 2 Dec, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off Bradshawgate),
BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

Why we need a revolutionary party

Wed 18 Nov, 7pm,
Equity Centre, Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd,
BD1 2LU

BRIGHTON

Marxism and the environment

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St,
BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: SOUTH

The Arab left, Islamism and the counter-revolution

Wed 25 Nov, 7.30pm,
YHA, Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CARDIFF

How we beat anti-union laws in the past and how we can today

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace,
CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

Human nature—are we too selfish for socialism?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

How do we fight Islamophobia today?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St (enter via Cafe Brower entrance),
S40 1QL

COVENTRY

Can Corbynomics work?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DERBY

How do we fight for women's liberation today?

Thu 26 Nov, 7pm,
West End Community Centre,
Mackworth Rd (next to Britannia Mill),
DE22 3BL

DONCASTER

The Black Panthers—vanguard of the revolution

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Women's Centre,
21 Cleveland St,
DN1 3EH

DUNDEE

How can Palestine be free?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd,
DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Suffragettes—how did women win the vote?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria Terrace,
EH1 2JL

EXETER

Can the Labour Party bring real change?

Thu 26 Nov, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St,
EX4 6AW

GLASGOW: NORTH

Women and the 1915 Rent Strike

Wed 25 Nov, 7.15pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe,
86 Maryhill Rd (near St George's Cross Underground),
G20 7QB

HARLOW

How we beat the anti-union laws in the past and how we can do it today

Thu 26 Nov, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
1 Church Leys,
CM18 6BX

HUDDERSFIELD

Suffragettes—how did women win the vote?

Wed 18 Nov, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

KIRKCALDY

Why do we celebrate the 1917 Russian Revolution?

Mon 7 Dec, 7.30pm,
Betty Nicol's pub,
297 High St, KY1 1JL

LANCASTER

Marxism and religion

Thu 19 Nov, 7.15pm,
Friends Meeting House
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Turkey, imperialism and the fight for Kurdish freedom

Thu 19 Nov, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: BRENT & HARROW

Rock against racism—when music helped fight fascism

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Peppercot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (very close to the station),
W10 5XL

LONDON: Brixton

Human nature—are we too selfish for socialism?

Wed 18 Nov, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Road (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square), SW2 1EP

LONDON: CAMDEN

Is religion oppressive?

Thu 26 Nov, 7pm,
Theatro Technis,
26 Crowndale Rd, NW1 1TT

SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

Capitalism vs the climate—how do we stop environmental disaster?



BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC MEETING
With Martin Empson.
Wed 25 Nov, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 25 Nov, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Thu 19 Nov, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure Centre (Room 2),
Artichoke Place (off Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8TS

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

PLYMOUTH

Thu 26 Nov, 7pm,
Quaker House,
74 Mutley Plain, PL4 6LF

LONDON: EALING

Are we all divided by privilege?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union Club,
33-35 Acton High St, W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

Why do we celebrate the 1917 Russian Revolution?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Nucleus Arts Centre
(Conference Room),
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: LEWISHAM

Racism—from slavery to today

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,
141 Greenwich High Rd (near Greenwich main line and DLR Station),
SE10 8JA

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

Can Corbynomics work?

Wed 25 Nov, 7pm,
Oxford House, Derbyshire St (opp Bethnal Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Is the media all powerful?

Wed 18 Nov, 7pm,
Chorlton Central Church (Meeting Room),
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

China—the next global superpower?

Thu 19 Nov, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

How we beat anti-union laws in the past and how can we today?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Food Factory,
884 Stockport Rd,
Levenshulme, M19 3BN

MEDWAY

Why do we celebrate the 1917 Russian Revolution?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Nucleus Arts Centre (Conference Room),
272 High St, Chatham,
ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

How can Palestine be free?

Thu 19 Nov, 7pm,
Broadacre House, Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NORWICH

How we beat anti-union laws in the past and how we can do it today

Thu 10 Dec, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

The Prevent Strategy—institutional Islamophobia

Wed 25 Nov, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

POOLE

Russia, Isis and the Arab revolution

Mon 16 Nov, 7.30pm,
The Blue Boar pub (near multi storey car park),
29 Market Close, BH15 1NE

PORTSMOUTH

By any means necessary—Malcolm X and the fight against racism

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St, PO5 4EY

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Is the media all powerful?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
Central Union
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near Crucible Theatre), S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Gay marriage, water protests and crisis in the Church—why is Ireland changing?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

STALBANS

The Black Panthers—vanguard of the revolution

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Trinity Church Hall (upstairs),
1 Beaconsfield Rd (near St Albans City station),
AL1 3RD

SWANSEA

Turkey—can Erdogan bring peace?

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

TELFORD

From coal mines to call centres—how has the working class changed?

Thu 26 Nov, 7.30pm,
Oddfellows Arms, 65 High St,
Wellington, TF1 1JT

WIGAN

Marxism and ecology

Wed 18 Nov, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite Wigan Post Office),
WN1 1LD

WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL

Trident—what do socialists say?

Wed 18 Nov, 7.30pm,
Irish Mbassy,
Lichfield St,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1EQ

YORK

The Prevent Strategy—institutional Islamophobia

Wed 25 Nov, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

COVENTRY

Protect the right to strike—No to the anti-union bill, Yes to workers' rights

Thu 19 Nov, 7.30pm,
United Reform Church,
10 Warwick Rd,
CV1 1EX.

Organised by Coventry Trades Council

LONDON

Build the fight against austerity—rally

Sat 21 Nov, 11-5pm,
Westminster Central Hall,
1 Storey Gate,
SW1H 9NH.

Organised by the Trade Union Coordinating Group.

tucg.org.uk

NATIONAL

Policing the crisis

Sun 15 Nov, 11am-5.30pm
Soas Students Union,
Thornhaugh St,
London,
WC1H 0XG.

Organised by Defend the Right to Protest.

defendtherighttoprotest.org

SCOTLAND

No Racism: Refugees Welcome Here

March and rally.

Sat 28 Nov,
assemble 10.30am at Glasgow Green to march at 11.30am.

Rally 12 noon,
Glasgow Film Theatre,
Rose St, G3 6RB.

Organised by the STUC.

stuc.org.uk

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600

Email

enquires@swp.org.uk

Post PO Box 42184,

London SW8 2WD

BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop

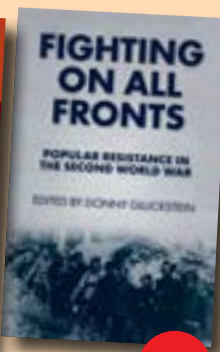
1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE ● 020 7637 1848 ● bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



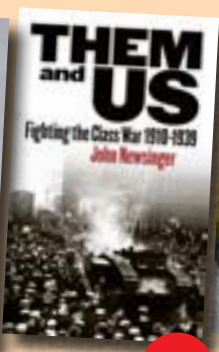
£3.00



£9.99



£13.99



£7.99



Mr Robot takes a swipe at a deeply alienated society

Based around a hacker who hates the corporations, TV series Mr Robot brings out a human story about coping with capitalism, says **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

US DIRECTOR Sam Esmail's thriller series Mr Robot is based around hacker Elliot Alderson (Rami Malek) who takes on the "top 1 percent of the top 1 percent".

This could all go terribly wrong. It's like Batman—but with up to date IT and where the baddies are corporations. It doesn't avoid all those potential pitfalls—the force of evil has the cringeworthy name "Evil Corp".

But it still manages to take a profound swipe at our society, with an original plot line and characters.

The first episode begins with Elliot sitting down next to "Ron", the owner of a coffee chain.

He frequents the coffee shop because of the incredibly fast wifi connection, but hacked Ron because "good only exists with conditions".

Ron's using the network to hide a server running a paedophiles' website. Elliot isn't after blackmail, and Ron's arrested from his anonymous tip-off.

Elliot is convinced he's being followed because of what he does. He knows he's gifted and can see the reality behind the appearance, but at the same time feels all the more isolated.

Elliot is the personification of alienation. He breaks down crying because of that isolation and loneliness people can feel.

Worst

Elliot complains that we want to be numbed by consumerism and looks for the worst in people.

But he can only make a real human connection other than with long-time friend Angela (Portia Doubleday) when he's numbed by morphine.

He's "vigilant hacker by night" and just a "cyber security engineer by day" who can recite his staff number.

While Elliot feels trapped within a society that thought Apple CEO Steve Jobs was a great man, he also tries to use his hacking skills to challenge that reality.

By the end of the first episode he's working for "F society", who plan to take down the financial sector.

The show is full of nods to capitalism from Anonymous hackers to Adam Smith's "invisible hand"

But what makes the show interesting isn't that. It explores an individual dealing with the frustrations of living under capitalism.

You'll take different things from Mr Robot. Whether that's the critique of the 1 percent or Elliot's alienation.

Either way, it has a lively plot and isn't too predictable. It will keep you hooked.

Mr Robot
Amazon Prime



RAMI MALEK stars as hacker Elliot Alderson

Photography

Anna Leska, Polish pilot (1942)

LEE MILLER was one of the most important photographers of the 20th century. This exhibition of her rarer work explores the impact of the Second World War on women's lives.

Lee Miller: A Woman's War, Imperial War Museum, London SE1 6HZ. Until 24 April 2016

FILM

LUIS BUNUEL: AESTHETICS OF THE IRRATIONAL

Institute Of Contemporary Arts (ICA),
London SW1Y 5AH.
Until 6 December
ica.org.uk
#SurrealSelfie

THIS EXHIBITION presents a retrospective of the Spanish surrealist film maker Luis Bunuel. It spans his career from his first film



Un Chien Andalou (1929) to The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie (1970).

Bunuel was part of the Spanish avant garde along with artist Salvador Dali and poet Federico Garcia Lorca.

This always stayed with him, but he moved leftwards. While his work wasn't always successful, it poked fun at capitalist norms.

As he once said, he made movies "to show that this is not the best of all possible worlds".

THEATRE

CHICAGO: THE GREAT TEACHERS' STRIKE

The Banner Theatre
Blackheath Newbridge Club,
22 Charlton Rd, London,
SE2 7HG.
7.30pm, 28 November.
Tickets £10, concessions £5.
For more information email
lynnechristinechamberlain@gmail.com

THIS PLAY tells the story of the Chicago Teachers Union's battle to defend education in 2012.

Their mass walkout



Teachers striking in 2012

managed to stall the corporate onslaught.

It weaves together music, inspirational video footage and interviews to show Chicago's lessons for working class resistance.

BRITAIN'S rulers always claim they go to war for the sake of preserving peace.

During the First World War, the whole establishment took up centre left author HG Wells' slogan that it would be "The war that will end war".

An alliance of the largest empires—Britain, France and Russia—was supposedly needed to protect the world from expansionist "German militarism".

We hear similar lies today to justify bombing Syria, defend the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan or make the case for renewing Trident nuclear missiles.

They are all underpinned by a perverse and contradictory view of the world.

On the one hand modern capitalist states are supposedly democratic and peaceful.

At the same time those states are so constantly under threat they need to be heavily armed and ready to fight.

In reality the system itself generates wars. And it is revolt—not more war—that stops them.

The nightmare of war can also fuel those revolts, as the institutions and ideas that hold capitalist society together start to break down.

The First World War is the clearest example.

As the politicians never tire of reminding us, there was initially enthusiasm for the war among many workers.

Almost half a million Britons volunteered for military service in the first two months.

It didn't help that across Europe mass socialist parties betrayed their promises to oppose war.

They had all previously pointed out that workers had nothing to gain from slaughtering each other.

Hostilities

But when hostilities broke out in 1914 they signed up to that slaughter, each going along with their own government's call to defend their country.

Those socialists who still opposed war were isolated.

The war itself changed that. The trenches became mass graves.

Neither military victories nor diplomatic breakthroughs seemed to offer any hope of ending it.

At the front, it took only months for officers to begin worrying about the fraternisation between opposing troops.

They suffered the same horrors, and it grew harder to see each other as the enemy.

There were countless informal truces.

This fed into recruitment problems at home.

In November 1916 10,000 workers in Sheffield even struck to defend an engineer—previously exempt from conscription



VIETNAM VETERANS march against the war in 1970

HOW DOES REVOLT END WAR?

Imperialism and international competition lies behind wars the world over. But if capitalism causes war, what ends it? Dave Sewell looks at the revolts that stopped the slaughter



Joe Glenton

—from being called up.

Rebellions began to look like the alternative. A single soldier or worker refusing to fight could be executed by the authorities.

But together they could challenge the authorities' power.

Mutinous soldiers and sailors and striking munitions workers led the Russian Revolution of February 1917 which overthrew the despotic Tsar.

It raised hopes all over Europe.

There were solidarity



The heroic resistance of the Vietnamese had an echo in the US

demonstrations in Germany, Britain, and France.

By April, mutinies paralysed the French army. Soldiers refused to launch another mass suicide mission.

When Russia's new provisional government continued the Tsar's war, it was overthrown in turn by a deepening revolution.

The new workers' government took Russia out of the war immediately in November 1917.

Its leaders saw hope not in slaughtering German workers and soldiers, but in winning them over.

Germany and its allies had already been rocked by strikes. Two million German soldiers had deserted. And in October 1918 German sailors mutinied in the port of Kiel.

The action spread across the country. They joined up with workers in the cities. The Kaiser abdicated.

The armistice was signed two days later. Revolution had ended the war.

Decades later the colonial war in Vietnam by the US new superpower ended up putting US society under immense strain.

THE heroic resistance of the Vietnamese had an echo in the US, with a mass protest movement eventually involving some hundreds of thousands of people.

The struggle for civil rights pitted black people in the US against its racist rulers.

Yet they were being asked to die and to kill for those same rulers.

Boxer Muhammad Ali spoke for many saying the Vietnamese had "never called me nigger".

US first lady Bird Johnson spoke for much of the establishment when she described in her diary "a ripple of grim excitement in the air, almost a feeling of being under siege".

Army discipline broke down. There were individual acts of passive disobedience, anti-war soldiers' papers and "fragging"—soldiers killing officers with fragmentation grenades.

After the Vietnamese resistance's bold Tet Offensive in 1968, the US ruling class was forced to start looking for exit strategies.

Today conscript armies are becoming rarer.

High-tech, professional armies can seem more stable, less prone to mutiny.

Poverty

But even these armies recruit the poor, drafting economic conscripts out of poverty and alienation.

Wars can remind these soldiers how little a stake they have in the system they are asked to die for.

British soldier Joe Glenton faced court martial rather than fight in Afghanistan.

Thousands of US soldiers deserted during the Iraq war.

Artillery gunner Michael Hoffman said US troops in Baghdad did "things almost like something they heard about in Vietnam".

"You've got guys who are sent on patrol, and instead of a real patrol they jump in a Humvee and drive through town as fast as possible to avoid any kind of confrontation," he said.

The invasion of Iraq

provoked Britain's biggest ever demonstrations in 2003.

Fear of that movement stopped the Tories winning support for bombing Syria ten years later.

CRUCIALLY, every army relies on technology and logistics. As Marxist playwright Bertolt Brecht wrote in his celebrated poem *General, Your Tank is a Powerful Vehicle, this means "it has one defect: It needs a mechanic"*.

The Defence Support Group workers who struck repeatedly last year maintained British tanks used in Afghanistan, some even flew out to bases there.

In 2003 two train drivers in Motherwell refused to move a freight train carrying munitions for the Iraq war.

A threatened firefighters' strike, called off at the last minute, would have diverted army resources away from war.

Everything capitalists do is dependent on workers' labour—even their wars.

Only exploiting this defect in the war machine can bring peace.

Warmongers

And building on these revolts can wreck the warmongers' system and usher in a world without war.

That means workers must fight their real enemy—the ruling class at home.

During the First World War, British politicians pointed to the Kaiser's repression and militarism.

This was real, and it made him the enemy of workers.

German politicians pointed to the equally real brutality of the British Empire.

But for workers in Britain, fighting Germany meant reinforcing their own rulers.

It also made it harder for German workers to break with theirs. The reverse was equally true.

The country where workers won most from the end of the war was the first major power that lost—Russia.

In 1905 Russia's defeat by Japan had helped trigger an earlier revolution that laid the foundations for 1917.

A Russian military victory would have been used to repress the opposition.

Yet the betrayal of workers in 1914 has been the model for



A mutiny by sailors in Germany ended the war and led to revolution (top). The placard reads, "All power to the soviets". A mass movement against war in 2003 (above)

Labour-type parties ever since. The attacks on Jeremy Corbyn have been a reminder of how much Labour places the idea of a "national interest" before workers' interests.

The right inside Labour criticise Corbyn's support of the Stop the War Coalition.

They say that bombing Syria will help to stop Isis and end the brutal civil war there. Others are for renewing the Trident system as a "nuclear deterrent".

But it's clear that more bombs and nukes do nothing to prevent or end wars.

Only fighting against the system that creates war in the first place can do that.

READ MORE

● **Lenin on the First World War**
marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1915/s+w/

● **Duncan Hallas on socialism, reformism and pacifism**
marxists.org/archive/hallas/works/1982/05/socwar.htm

● **Empire and Revolution: a Socialist History of the First World War**
by Dave Sherry £7.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



ECONOMICS

There's nothing inevitable in this autumn of layoffs

Unions are treating mass job losses like a done deal. Instead they should learn from last time, argues Simon Basketter



SMILE TIME? Boss Bamford (right) and his pal Cameron

BACK STORY

Recent months have seen a series of announcements of massive job cuts

● Thousands of jobs went with the closure of Redcar steel works. Now hundreds of construction jobs have been lost just down the road

● Digger maker JCB is axing several hundred jobs despite workers taking a pay cut to save them.

● Yet unemployment is down and the economy is slowly growing

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

JCB matters also because at the start of the recession in 2008, unions signed up to a pay cut on the promise of stopping job cuts.

But 1,684 jobs were cut anyway in 2008 and 2009.

As the BBC put it on the company's 70th anniversary last month, "By 2012, things were looking brighter for JCB as it posted a record profit of £365 million, opened a £63 million factory in Brazil, and announced a

500 jobs gone.

Socialist Worker Appeal to raise £150,000

The Socialist Worker Appeal has made a great start with £70,106 already received.

Help us reach our £150,000 target – donate today!



IT WAS KEY TO DRIVING SOLIDARITY



Sandy (fourth from right) campaigning with SOAS cleaners in 2012

"Socialist Worker was absolutely key to driving the solidarity in order to win my reinstatement.

"It's always the paper that has information on the issues activists need to know about.

"Socialist Worker goes further though – it doesn't just report the news but also carries the political arguments that this battle was wider than my case but also about attacks on public services and higher education."

Sandy Nicoll

SOAS Unison branch secretary

To donate go to www.socialistworker.co.uk/appeal

Call 020 7840 5620 or send a cheque, payable to 'SW Appeal' to PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

- ☐ **Yes, I'd like to be a member**
- ☐ **Please send me some information**

Name

Address

.....

Postcode

Phone

Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 42184,

London SW8 2WD. **Phone** 020 7840 5602

Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to
your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD



Instruction to your bank or building society to pay
by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

**1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building
society**

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from
the account detailed on this instruction subject to
the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.
I understand that this instruction may remain with
Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed
electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept
Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that
accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your
Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working
days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise
agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment,
confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time
of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by
Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are
entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your
bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back
when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting
your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required.
Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD

Phone 020 7840 5601

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Junior doctors take on Tory lies over NHS

As the Tories and their media mates go on the offensive against them, angry junior doctors spoke to **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** about the reality of the job—and why they're fighting back

THE TORIES' mouthpieces in the right wing media have begun a campaign against junior doctors.

The British Medical Association (BMA) is balloting for strikes over an attack on their contracts (see below). The Sun newspaper claimed the idea that junior doctors are overworked is a "myth".

Nicki, a junior doctor working in east London, spoke to Socialist Worker about the reality of life in the job. "You already work over your contracted hours because you care for your patients," she said.

Junior doctor Yannis agreed. "We'll be in work two to three hours after we've 'finished'," he explained.

"In one hospital where I used to work, if you were down to work until 6pm you'd still be there between 7pm and 9.30pm. Sometimes it was until 10.30pm."

Cuts and attacks make it harder for health workers to give the care they want to. Nicki said government policies had led to "fewer and more demoralised staff".

Rounded

Health workers work longer hours because they try to give patients rounded care.

Yannis described the importance of having enough time and resources. "You're making life and death decisions," he said.

"You have to weigh up the pros and cons of hypotheses. But you also have to explain those decisions to patients and relatives."

Junior doctors work between



JUNIOR DOCTORS protesting against the attack on their contracts

80 and 90 hours a week. Nicki said, "There's no scheduled breaks. Normally you have a cup of tea when meeting consultants or have lunch during training."

When Yannis spoke to Socialist Worker he had just finished a week-end of being on call.

"There's a myth of the consultant on a golf course, taking a phone call and then going back to their game," he said.

"But I was in work from 9am till 9pm taking calls from across the

hospital. You're then taking calls throughout the night and you're back again on Sunday."

It was fears around patient safety that led to limits on hours in the first place. Now the Tories want to tear them up.

In 1990 there was no limit on the number of hours junior doctors could work. But the threat of industrial action forced the Tories to set up a working group that came up with the current contract.

Yannis said, "The new contracts

would take us back to the 1990s."

The junior doctors are fighting a 40 percent pay cut—but it's also about more than that.

Hunt's plans will set a precedent for more attacks throughout the health service, put patient safety at risk and encourage privatisation.

This is a fight for the NHS.

What's your story?
Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

PATIENT SAFETY

The harmful impact of the 'Hunt effect'

JEREMY HUNT claims that 11,000 more patients die a year because of the "weekend effect"—when fewer doctors are on wards to monitor patients.

Hunt and the Daily Mail newspaper use a British Medical Journal (BMJ) article by Sir Bruce Keogh, NHS England's medical director, to back this up.

Yet Keogh's paper says it would be "rash and misleading" to conclude that the 11,000 deaths could be prevented.

Patients admitted during the weekend are more likely



Jeremy Hunt—a danger to patients

A political attack to privatise the health service

THE TORIES claim new junior doctors' contracts will improve patient care. Jeremy Hunt talks of bringing in "seven-day working" in the NHS.

But most doctors, nurses and other health workers already work around the clock, including nights and weekends.

It isn't about short term savings.

The junior doctors' wage bill is a relatively small part of the NHS

budget. It is a politically-inspired attack.

The Tories want to smash junior doctors' pay and conditions before moving onto other NHS workers.

They want to soften the NHS up for privatisation.

Charlotte Monroe, a health worker in east London, told Socialist Worker, "The Tories want to run the NHS on the cheap. This attack hasn't happened to the rest of us yet, but we know

it's round the corner."

The junior doctors' revolt has rocked the Tories.

That's why the Department of Health has attacked the BMA as "blinker" and said strikes would "put patients at risk".

Hurt

In truth it is government cuts and privatisation that hurt patients.

The NHS winter crisis has already begun as hospitals creak under the

burden of a projected £2 billion deficit.

Junior doctors aren't balloting in Scotland and Wales, because the Scottish National Party (SNP) and Labour governments aren't imposing the new contracts.

Yet the SNP still wants private sector involvement. And Welsh Labour is pushing through a hospital "rationalisation" programme.

Many health workers

support the junior doctors because they want to stop the Tory offensive.

Unison union leader Dave Prentis said the union would fight attacks on unsocial hours' pay in the NHS.

But he has done next to nothing to support the junior doctors.

Workers can win. Instead of being the Tories' soft target, junior doctors are leading the way—now others have to get behind them.

to be emergency cases with a higher risk of death.

The lack of support staff and access to special areas—such as X-rays—also has an impact.

But Hunt's attack would make the NHS chronic staffing crisis worse by pushing doctors out of the health service.

Hunt's claims have put people off seeking treatment at weekends—something doctors call the "Hunt effect".

A survey found 40 patients who delayed treatment because they feared getting worse care at weekends. The delay meant 80 percent of them had a "worse outcome".

Two of them died, possibly also as a result of the delay.

Tory austerity and Hunt's propaganda are harming patients.

IN BRIEF

Firefighters sound the alarm for jobs

FIREFIGHTERS in the West Midlands could ballot for action over plans to cut 300 jobs, the FBU union said. West Midlands Fire Service says the jobs will go through “natural wastage”. This means that when a worker leaves or retires they will not be replaced.

It will leave the service understaffed.

New pay offer for offshore caterers

THE UNITE union has said it will ballot its members working under the Caterers Offshore Trade Association on a new offer from bosses.

Unite members voted for strikes after bosses reneged on the second year of a two-year pay deal. It was not clear as Socialist Worker went to press if the new offer included restoring this.

A consultative ballot will close on Friday 4 December.

Bolton journalists refuse to be cut

JOURNALISTS AT the Bolton News are preparing to ballot for industrial action over plans to sack ten workers—almost a quarter of the editorial workforce.

Owner Newsquest has slashed jobs at local papers across Britain. The balloting workers are in the NUJ union.

Victory for Hackney traffic wardens

TRAFFIC WARDENS in Hackney, east London, have won a pay rise and a sick pay policy after striking in August. The 30 Unite union members are employed by Apcoa on behalf of Hackney council.

They had been set to strike again this month, prompting bosses to make a last ditch offer. They were set to vote on it on Tuesday of this week.

Kick Islamophobia off our campuses

STUDENTS ARE getting ready for a national day of action against the Islamophobic “Prevent” strategy on Monday 7 December.

Prevent forces universities to spy on Muslims and report them for “extremism”.

The day of action, called by NUS and other organisations, is set to involve leafleting, meetings and protests.

Shout out for PCS activist Iain Yell

MEMBERS OF the PCS union are campaigning for the reinstatement of sacked HMRC worker and activist Iain Yell.

Iain was dismissed due to absences related to his depression. The PCS argues that this is discrimination arising from disability.

●Sign petition bit.ly/1L60Bnu

EDUCATION

London Met students fight for arts courses

by KATHERINE IGIDBASHIAN,
London Met student

UP TO 300 students held an angry and lively protest outside the Cass art school in Aldgate, east London, on Thursday of last week.

They showed their disgust at planned closures with chants of, “Whose school? Our school!”

Cass is part of London Metropolitan University.

London Met bosses last month announced that it was to be moved to the Holloway Road site in north London.

This would result in a reduction of student places, job losses and at least 19 course cuts from the Cass faculty alone. This is part of a broader attack that management markets as “One Campus, One Community”.

Students held placards attacking the Vice Chancellor and calling the student union president a traitor for not backing them.

Recently reinstated National Gallery PCS union rep Candy Udwin and prominent artist Jeremy Deller spoke out offering solidarity with students against closures.



CASS STUDENTS protesting

PICTURE: ASCHA PAUL

Attacks on London Met are nothing new. Only six months ago, 165 jobs were at risk through vicious cuts by the management.

The university has more black and minority ethnic students than all of the elite Russell Group universities combined.

This is an attack on access to education, particularly arts education, for the working

class. One student said, “They’re trying to get rid of the all the arts courses and the galleries, they’re trying to stifle creativity.”

Another asked where else working class students were supposed to go.

However there is a real mood of resistance. Students are furious and determined to keep fighting back with plans for further protests.

ST WILFRID'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Teachers stick together to stop bosses' disciplinaries

by SADIE ROBINSON

UNIONS HAVE suspended a planned strike this week at St Wilfrid's Catholic High School in Featherstone, West Yorkshire, after reaching a settlement.

NUT and NASUWT union members at the school struck on Tuesday of last week over “leadership and management issues”.

Some workers had been suspended following a union meeting at the school.

Workers had planned

to strike on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Sally Kincaid is the divisional secretary of Wakefield and District NUT. She told Socialist Worker, “Management have withdrawn formal disciplinary action against two staff members.”

“This is a real result that shows what can be done when workers stick together.”

“Over 50 teachers joined picket lines last week. Management has realised they can’t run a school without teachers.”

SUPPORT STAFF

Assistants in pay protest

by KIERAN PICKEN

THE UNISON union held a second demonstration against severe attacks on school support staff by the Labour-led Derby City Council on Wednesday of last week.

Some teaching assistants face up to 25 percent wage cuts, and the mood was angry and noisy.

There was a lot of support from the public as car horns joined the shouts, whistles

and chants of demonstrators.

A solidarity delegation from the NUT union and local People’s Assembly supported the protest.

An unexpected development was the presence of the Derby North Labour Party banner—even as the Labour council tries to push through these pay cuts.

It bore the face of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

●Send messages of support to the Derby Unison branch at unison@derby.gov.uk

LECTURERS

First ever strike vote at Open University

OPEN UNIVERSITY (OU) workers have delivered an historic vote for strikes to stop job cuts and office closures.

The vote is the first vote for strikes in the OU’s history. Some 72 percent of the UCU union members

voting backed strikes and 83 percent supported action short of a strike.

Bosses want to close seven regional OU centres in Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Gateshead, Leeds, London and Oxford. This plan would put over

500 jobs at risk.

OU workers were set to meet this week to decide their next steps. Any strike would also involve UCU members at other centres in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Manchester and Nottingham.

ANTI-FASCISM

Stop the EDL in Bradford

ANTI-RACISTS WERE set to protest against the racist English Defence League (EDL) in Bradford, West Yorkshire, on Saturday.

The EDL has called a protest in the city. It is trying to use a local child sexual exploitation case to whip up Islamophobia.

Local anti-racist group We Are Bradford and Unite Against Fascism (UAF) have called a rally in opposition to the EDL. It will call for justice for victims of sexual exploitation, and oppose racist attempts to divide people.

Joint national secretary of UAF Weyman Bennett urged people to join the protest. “Complacency is dangerous,”

he said. “To ignore the EDL is to encourage it.”

Campaigner Umit Yildiz told Socialist Worker, “We distributed around 1,000 leaflets in the town centre last Saturday.”

“In the past some people would throw away the leaflets, but this time we didn’t have a single negative response.”

“Our rally will be in the centre of town where lots of people will see it.”

Some 25 Bradford councillors signed the We Are Bradford statement along with trade unionists and campaigners.

●Saturday 14 November, 12 noon, Broadway/Norfolk Gardens, BD1 1HA

FAST FOOD RIGHTS

Protests in Britain alongside US strike

FAST FOOD rights campaigners held protests outside fast food restaurants across Britain on Tuesday of this week.

Members of the Fast Food Rights campaign and GMB union called the protests to coincide with a strike by fast food workers in the US.

The campaigners are demanding £10 an hour for fast food workers and the right to a union.

The GMB also held a protest outside Turtle Bay in Walthamstow, north London, on Friday of last week.

Turtle Bay bosses have been charging workers 3 percent of their tips at the end of every shift.

NUT UNION

THE NUT teachers’ union has called a lobby of parliament on Wednesday 18 November in protest at education funding cuts.

One Yorkshire teacher said the impact of cuts on school budgets had been “unbelievable”.

A London teacher said courses had been cut “to the detriment of students”

due to lack of money.

Teachers will meet in the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster.

NUT general secretary Christine Blower and shadow education secretary Lucy Powell will address teachers there between 10.30 and 11am on the day.

●Go to teachers.org.uk/campaigns/funding

TRANSPORT WORKERS

Call for action to back rep

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

RMT UNION members on London Underground have called on the union to step up the campaign to defend union activist Glen Hart.

Bosses tried to sack Glen last year for carrying out industrial action over cuts to stations. But with no evidence they could not find against him. Now they are having another go at targeting Glen.

New trumped up charges have been laid against him with a manager alleging he was rude to them.

Glen’s Morden and Oval branch last week backed a call for a day of action against victimisation. RMT has stated

that unless the charges are dropped it will ballot all grades for industrial action.

An all grades reps’ meeting on Thursday of this week is set to discuss how to step up the campaign.

●Download the poster, take a solidarity selfie bit.ly/1OzOPex

■TRAIN DRIVERS at Arriva Wales were set to strike for 48 hours on Thursday and Friday of this week to demand a better pay deal. Previous strikes were suspended for talks.

■CUSTOMER relations staff at Northern Rail walked out on strike on Monday of this week over bosses’ downgrading of jobs.

FIGHTING THE CUTS

March says library cuts are a 'disgrace'

by TOMÁŠ TENGEY-EVANS

OVER 500 people marched against library closures by Labour-run Lambeth council in south London last Saturday.

Library user Mark told Socialist Worker, "You expect it from a Tory council. It's a disgrace that Labour is pushing through library cuts. It's just not in tune with what Jeremy Corbyn is arguing."

Marchers rallied outside Brixton library in the morning.

Roger Lewis from Disabled People Against the Cuts, said, "You're going to have to apply for all your benefits online. But many people rely on the library for internet access. The council knows this but they don't care."

Wrong

"We're here to say that what they're doing is wrong—and that we're standing up to them."

John Burgess, the Barnet Unison union branch secretary, brought solidarity with a delegation from the north London borough.

Many people new to the libraries campaign joined the march. Kim and her daughter Molly were marching for the first time. Molly said, "I go to



MARCHING FOR libraries despite the rotten weather last Saturday

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

the libraries to read and learn things."

Kim added, "When libraries are gone, they're gone."

"That's why it's important to march, even in the rain."

Sally said, "There aren't many free spaces to use."

"They're really precious, especially if you live in a small flat with children like a lot of people around here."

To chants of "Save Lambeth libraries", the demonstration

marched to Tate South library in Vauxhall.

Labour councillor Jane Edbrooke, cabinet member responsible for libraries, was holding a surgery there.

Workers are also looking to take action.

Tim O'Dell, the Unison libraries shop steward, spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity.

He said, "Two weeks ago we voted to strike if they

make anyone redundant or close any libraries. We're now waiting on the union to give us a ballot."

"The council also threatened that any worker 'misbehaving' on the demo would be disciplined. But we said we'd down tools immediately if that happened."

●Protest at council scrutiny committee, Tue 10 Nov, 7pm, Lilian Bayliss school, 323 Kennington Lane, SE11 5QY

EGYPT SOLIDARITY

Hundreds protest at tyrant el-Sisi's state visit to Britain

by JUDITH ORR

HUNDREDS OF people protested outside Downing Street on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning of last week against Egypt's military-backed president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

They chanted, "David Cameron shame on you" for inviting el-Sisi to Britain.

Somaia Halawa, whose brother is imprisoned in Egypt, had travelled from Ireland with her sister to join the demonstration.

"I'm here because David Cameron has invited the man who arrested and put my only brother in jail," she told Socialist Worker.

Massacre

She described how she witnessed the Rabaa massacre in Cairo, when the military killed up to 1,000 protesters. The protests were called by a number of organisations including the Stop the War Coalition, the Egypt Solidarity Initiative and the Stop Sisi campaign.

Egyptian student Toka Gad is studying in Britain.

She told Socialist Worker that having Sisi to visit means "giving the dictator more power to kill students and other protesters who want to demonstrate



On the protest at Downing Street

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

about anything".

Anne Alexander from the Egypt Solidarity Initiative told the crowd that around Britain "trade unionists, students and activists were appalled by Sisi's crimes".

"Sisi was pretending he is a statesman," she added. "But he is not a statesman, he is a killer."

Cameron wanted the visit's headlines to be about combatting terrorism and the withdrawing of flights to Egypt.

But protesters made sure that he faced opposition for rolling out the red carpet for the butcher of the Egyptian Revolution.

●Longer at socialistworker.co.uk/art/41648/H

MILLION MASK MARCH

UNISON UNION

It's time to get rid of the useless Prentis regime

VOTING IN the Unison union general secretary election opened on Monday of this week.

Socialist Worker backs John Burgess, branch secretary of Barnet Unison in north London. He has a track record of leading resistance to Tory austerity. Incumbent Dave Prentis has failed to lead a real fight against the Tories and sold members short when they've answered calls to mobilise.

He promised in 2011 that the pensions fight would be a "campaign of strike action without precedent", invoking the great struggle of the miners in 1980s.

They were out for a year against a Tory government—

Prentis threw in the towel after just one day.

Last year members rebelled against the over local government pay sellout by union leaders.

Despite overturning this at a special conference this year members still have not seen the leadership act on that decision properly.

Unison's national officer for local government Heather Wakefield, another candidate in the election, is implicated in all of this.

It's vital that, as ballot papers arrive, activists get to workplaces to argue why John is the candidate to vote for.

●Donate online and find out more at johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.co.uk

NHS

Health campaigners angry at local hospital closures

DOZENS OF angry campaigners protested outside the meeting of the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (Health East) on Thursday of last week.

Health East confirmed that two community hospitals were to be closed.

In a "consultation" only 21 percent supported the closure of hospitals in Southwold and Halesworth.

Fewer still wanted the beds in Northgate in Great Yarmouth and All Hallows near Bungay scrapped.

Over 1,100 people responded to the consultation but the views of the local population were ignored.

Lowestoft Hospital has already been closed. The 21 beds retained in Beccles to service vast swathes of Norfolk



No to Health East's closures

and Suffolk are too few and too distant.

There is already critical pressure on the James Paget hospital, frequently on "Black Alert". This is when services are overwhelmed by high demand and staff struggle to admit and discharge patients.

Health East wants to cut £4.3 million from the health budget.

Anonymous collective hits the streets against system

THOUSANDS OF people took to the streets of central London on Thursday of last week to protest against attacks on civil liberties, austerity and inequality.

The Million Mask March defied the Metropolitan Police's punitive restrictions.

The annual protest was organised by hacker collective Anonymous. It took place in cities around the world.

The march was also against inequality, police surveillance, the refugee crisis and a lack of real democracy. For many people it was their first demo.

Ahead of the march, the

cops claimed protesters were planning to cause serious damage to property and to occupy buildings.

Thousands of extra officers were drafted in. They imposed restrictions from four separate pieces of legislation on an area stretching from Leicester Square to Parliament Square to Buckingham Palace.

Protesters voiced their anger against the system and poverty in general but there were also specifics.

Chants ranged from, "David Cameron fucked a pig" to, "Refugees in, Tories Out".

Tom Kay

Cyprus shows up Tory refugee lies

David Cameron is refusing to help refugees on British territory in Cyprus, writes **Dave Sewell**

REFUGEES WHOSE boats landed on British territory are exposing the British government's vicious hypocrisy.

Some 115 Syrian and Palestinian refugees are being held at RAF base Dhekelia in Cyprus, after landing at RAF Akrotiri last month.

Base authorities are determined to avoid letting them claim asylum in Britain.

They won't let the refugees out unless they agree to be deported or apply for asylum in Cyprus instead.

The refugees have held protests inside the camp, including setting tents on fire and shouting, "We are people, not animals."

Their spokesperson, Palestinian Ibrahim Marouf, said in a video, "The gate of the camp is always closed, there are fences all around the camp, it makes us people in jail."

Police armed with tasers were sent in to repress them.

The European Union (EU) Dublin rules insist refugees

BACK STORY

European governments have overseen a refugee crisis since the summer

● Many, including Britain's Tory government, have refused to offer refuge

● Many refugees have fled bloody war and poverty

● David Cameron claims that helping them will encourage unsafe journeys

● But it's immigration controls that force refugees into danger

must claim asylum in the first EU country they reach. It means they face deportation from any other EU countries.

Governments such as Britain consistently use this to push refugees back to EU border countries.

But they refuse to apply that standard in Britain's overseas bases—despite a 2003 agreement with Cyprus saying migrants who

reach the bases are Britain's responsibility.

Dhekelia is already home to 75 refugees after a boat landed there by chance in 1998.

They include 21 of the boat's original 71 passengers, and their children born since.

They are housed in buildings with asbestos that were due to be demolished 25 years ago.

They say base authorities have tried to pressure them to leave by removing vital services.

Sudanese refugee Tag Bashir said "my life has been wasted" on the base. He wants to go to Britain and work.

Prison

"We didn't want to come here—we were going to Greece," said Ibrahim. "Now we're in a British prison."

David Cameron has been slammed for taking in only a tiny number of refugees during a world historic crisis.

Now he faces warnings that refugees will freeze to death if they are locked outside during the winter.

His response, like that of many other European leaders, is state repression.

But protesters are fighting back.

When Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras visited new EU "hot spot" centres in Athens and Lesbos last week, anti-racists protested against the wall on Greece's land border.

Hundreds marched in solidarity with the Calais migrants in the nearby city of Lille last Saturday.

Stand Up to Racism was set to take the anger to Downing Street on Thursday of this week with a solidarity protest demanding, "Don't let them freeze".

Assemble 6pm, Downing Street. See event page on Facebook on [fb.me/1PxyCDy](https://www.facebook.com/1PxyCDy)

Detention centres



DETAINEES WELCOMED protesters at Yarl's Wood last week

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

Protest demands, 'Close Yarl's Wood'

REFUGEE RIGHTS activists protested at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in Bedfordshire last Saturday.

They chanted, "Brick by brick, wall by wall, detention centres have to fall." Detainees held up signs at their windows with slogans such as "Freedom Now" and "I am human".

Yarl's Wood, run by private firm Serco, holds hundreds of migrants and failed asylum seekers—the majority of them women—in prison conditions.

It has become notorious after three deaths in custody and numerous allegations of racist and sexual abuse.

Many of those protesting were former detainees.

Jade, secretary for

campaign group Women For Refugee Women, was detained in Oakington detention centre in her youth.

She told Socialist Worker, "Oakington is now closed, and Yarl's Wood will close too."

"These people have committed no crime, yet they are in a prison."

"If the government doesn't close it down we will keep campaigning."

Former Yarl's Wood detainee Josephine described the conditions inside.

"You have no privacy as a woman—you could be sleeping, you could be bathing, and the men just come in," she told Socialist Worker.

"There are cameras

everywhere. And then you hear the chains on the door. It's not detention—it's a prison."

The demonstration was called by Movement for Justice and supported by a wide range of campaigns including Stand up to Racism.

Organisers said around 1,000 people joined it—the biggest protest yet at a British detention centre.

Student campaigner Holly said the recent growth of protests for refugees had given her "immense hope".

"We can get rid of detention centres," she said.

"It's got to come through movements like this, through protest."

For more see socialistworker.co.uk/art/41649/H

Hundreds rally in London to say migrants welcome

UP TO 700 people joined a refugee solidarity rally organised by Stand Up to Racism in central London on Wednesday of last week.

Nasma, a Syrian refugee, told the audience how her family had fled Syria.

"Now I just want my other brother and my sister to join us," she said.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was greeted with rapturous applause.

He said, "This will not be solved by razor wire fences and gunboats."

Shadow international development secretary



Diane Abbott

Diane Abbott said, "We should not fall into the idea that refugees are a class of migrants more deserving than others."

For more see bit.ly/1NZ8OhX